



News Release

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Contact: Michael Mayor
Public Information Officer
Caltrans - (530) 225-3071

California Department of Transportation
District 2, Redding
Brian Crane, District Director

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Highway Info - 1-800-427-7623
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Slide Work to Begin on State Route 70 in Plumas County

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation will begin emergency roadwork on State Route (SR) 70 in Plumas County near Rich Bar, approximately 20 miles west of Quincy between Belden and the Greenville Wye, Monday, January 26, 2004. This project is expected to take up to one week for completion, with closures of SR 70 of at least one hour during blasting operations. Work will be completed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with blasting occurring between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Due to damage caused by extreme weather conditions in this area, blasting must be completed to prevent further dirt and rock slides and damage to the roadway. In addition to blasting operations, workers will be scaling the rock wall to remove loose dirt and rocks by hand. During this hand operation, the roadway will be closed for up to 20-minute intervals.

The cost of this emergency work is expected to be approximately \$200,000. This cost is in addition to the 48 hours of initial work performed by the Caltrans maintenance crew out of Pulga, which worked around the clock to clear the rocks from the roadbed. The major blasting and rock scaling will be performed by a private contractor, releasing the six-person Caltrans crew to resume normal highway maintenance operations. The Pulga crew is responsible for nearly 50 centerline miles of State Route 70 maintenance from the State Route 191 junction in Butte County to 7 miles west of the Greenville Wye in Plumas County.

The Feather River Canyon is especially prone to rock slides due to the steep canyon walls. Nearly every year, rock slides big enough to warrant an emergency construction contract are necessary. "We work very hard at trying to keep State Route 70 open with minimum delays, but when large rocks begin to fall we have to do whatever it takes to stabilize the situation", said Russ Wenham, Deputy District Director for Caltrans in Redding.

Travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes during this project, to reduce their speed and be prepared to stop at the traffic control station when approaching the construction zone.

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SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE

***NOTE: Photos of the slide removal operations, as well as an electronic version of this news release are available on the internet at the following web address:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm***